

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 4 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 3 and 4. Thus, no new matter is added.

**I. Allowable Subject Matter**

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4 is appreciated, it being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of allowable claim 4, and intervening claim 3, is incorporated into independent claim 1, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

**II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by EP 0881747 to Umeda et al. As claim 3 is canceled the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6 is respectfully traversed.

As allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 1, Umeda fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended.

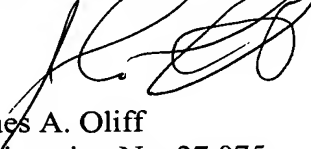
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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